United Nations A/ES-10/612–S/2014/16

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
10 January 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 10 January 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Despite the ardent hopes that this new year will bring long-awaited Israeli-Palestinian peace, the year has begun with the continuation of illegal and reckless Israeli practices that are deepening mistrust and scepticism with regard to Israel's intentions and commitments to peace and are further sabotaging the prospects for realizing the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

Although intensive peace efforts are under way, Israel, the occupying Power, persists with its reckless settlement campaign throughout the Occupied State of Palestine, in flagrant violation of international law and in total contradiction to the objectives of the negotiations to bring an end to the occupation by Israel since 1967 of the Palestinian land, including East Jerusalem, and achieve the independence of the Palestinian State and a just solution for all outstanding core issues, thereby allowing the State of Palestine and the State of Israel to coexist, side by side, in peace and security.

Today the Government of Israel declared plans for the construction of more than 1,400 new residential units in settlements in Occupied East Jerusalem and elsewhere in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. This includes, inter alia, plans for constructing another 600 units in the settlement of "Ramat Shlomo"; plans for construction in the "Gush Etzion" area, south of Jerusalem, further fragmenting the historic link between the city and the Bethlehem area; and plans for expanding the vast settlement of "Ariel", located 12 miles deep into the West Bank.

Such illegal and provocative actions undermine the international and regional attempts to facilitate and advance the negotiations between the parties, including the tireless efforts of United States Secretary of State John Kerry, and render the negotiations meaningless. Even Israeli witnesses to these criminal actions are underscoring the destructive impact and message of malicious intent by the Government of Israel in this regard. Peace Now, an Israeli non-governmental

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organization that is monitoring settlement activities, released a statement today stressing that, "These actions are an indication that this Government is not serious about the process; in fact, they are fooling the Israeli public, the Palestinian leadership, the U.S. Secretary of State and the international community".

It is high time for all concerned parties in the international community, including the Security Council, to respond to such contemptuous decisions by Israel with clarity and firmness. This response must be based on international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, which deem all such colonization activities to be illegal, and on the international consensus regarding the two-State solution to the conflict. The message to Israel must be clear: settlement activities are illegal and must cease, there will be consequences for the continued pursuit of these illegal actions, and Israel will be held responsible should such actions lead to the collapse of peace efforts and of the two-State solution.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 481 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 30 December 2013 (A/ES-10/611-S/2013/782), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/613–S/2014/47

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
24 January 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 23 January 2014 from the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you of the continuing turmoil and deterioration of the situation in the Occupied State of Palestine due to illegal and provocative policies that continue to be pursued by Israel, the occupying Power. While serious peace efforts are being undertaken both regionally and internationally to achieve peace and to salvage the two-State solution, Israel instead continues to choose aggression and colonization. In fact, since the resumption of the peace talks, not a single day has passed in which the occupying Power has ceased its oppressive and destructive measures threatening to derail the peace talks and threatening to create an environment for violence to erupt and spiral out of control.

The latest spate of Israeli crimes took place yesterday, Wednesday, 22 January, in the Gaza Strip, an integral part of the State of Palestine, which remains under an oppressive, unlawful blockade. For the second time in a week, Israeli occupying forces launched military strikes against the Gaza Strip, firing a missile at a car carrying Ahmed Zaanin, 21 years old, and Mahmoud Zaanin, 23 years old, killing them both. We continue to condemn this illegal practice of extrajudicial executions repeatedly perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, and call for the international community to take measures to ensure accountability for such grave violations of international law and human rights law.

In addition to the killing of Palestinian civilians, Israel continues with its illegal, provocative measures that continue to aggravate tensions. While all these issues, in particular the issue of continued settlement activities, were highlighted during the State of Palestine's intervention at the Security Council on 20 January 2014, in which more than 40 Member States who addressed the Council reiterated the illegality of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obstacle they pose to peace, I remain compelled to draw the

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international community's attention to several actions taken by the occupying Power over the past days.

Yesterday, Wednesday, 22 January, Israel, the occupying Power, moved forward with its plans for another 261 new units in two settlements located deep in the West Bank. This includes 256 units in the so-called settlement of "Nofei Prat", between Jerusalem and Jericho, which, according to Peace Now, dramatically changes the settlement, expanding its size and population significantly, in fact tripling its size. Another five settlement units in the massive settlement of "Ariel" in the north were also included in that announcement. Also this week, the occupying Power's so-called Jerusalem municipality announced its plans to build a new settlement "neighbourhood" south of the City, which would include 1,700 settlement units. Furthermore, a further 381 new settlement units were approved to be built in the so-called settlement of "Givat Zeev" north of Jerusalem.

Along with the innumerable violations to Palestinian rights as a result of illegal settlements, racist and fanatic Israeli settlers continue to wreak havoc and destruction on Palestinian properties and land throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In the recent period, extremist settlers have continued to vandalize homes and to destroy olive groves and other farmlands. The most recent attacks occurred yesterday, when Israeli settlers uprooted over 600 recently planted olive and almond saplings in the village of Sinjil, north of Ramallah in the West Bank. It should be noted that the saplings were planted by the International Committee of the Red Cross to support Palestinian farmers and would have benefited more than 70 families.

The occupying Power is also pushing ahead with excavation plans for a so-called second "visitors' centre" at the entrance to Wadi Hilweh in Silwan, a densely populated neighbourhood of East Jerusalem. Such excavations by the occupying Power at the entrance to Wadi Hilweh are destroying deep-rooted Islamic antiquities from the Umayyad and Abbasid caliphate eras. The Al-Aqsa Foundation for Endowment and Heritage highlighted in a statement that previous excavations adjacent to the area had demolished an Islamic cemetery from the Abbasid era. We condemn and reject all Israeli measures and attempts to illegally alter the character, historic and religious identity and legal status of these historical sites and demand a halt to any and all such measures throughout Occupied East Jerusalem.

All of these illegal Israeli policies and practices are fuelling tensions on the ground, inciting violence and provoking deeper mistrust. The negative impact of such Israeli breaches on the situation on the ground is vast and is deepening pessimism with respect to the potential for the success of the current peace negotiations and the ultimate viability of the two-State solution. A clear demand must be made to Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its illegal actions and commit to the path of peace. The international community, foremost the Security Council, has clear responsibilities in this regard and must no longer tolerate the occupying Power's empty pretexts, deception and blatant contempt for international law. The international community must act collectively to hold Israel accountable for its violations and crimes and salvage the prospects for the realization of peace and justice in 2014.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 482 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters,

dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 10 January 2014 (A/ES-10/612-S/2014/16) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/614–S/2014/59

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
29 January 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 28 January 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a statement from the Bishops of the Holy Land Coordination issued today, 28 January 2014 (see annex), calling for justice to be upheld in the Cremisan Valley, near Bethlehem in the Occupied State of Palestine, where Israel, the occupying Power, plans to build its expansionist wall on the land of 58 Palestinian Christian families, in total disrespect for the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and the resolutions of the United Nations and in grave breach of international law.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

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Annex to the identical letters dated 28 January 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Urgent need for support as Beit Jala families seek justice:

Bishops call for prayer and for international pressure as Supreme Court of Israel Hearing into Cremisan Valley starts

As Bishops of the Holy Land Coordination, we call for justice to be upheld in the Cremisan Valley, near Bethlehem. Israel's plans to build a security wall on the land of 58 Christian families should be abandoned. We met with many families from Beit Jala during our recent visit to the Holy Land. We heard of their pain and anguish. They are faced with the threatened loss of their land and livelihood as the planned security wall will destroy vineyards, groves and orchards and separate them from their land.

We recognize the right of the State of Israel to security and secure borders. However, the planned route of the security wall deviates sharply from the Green Line, the internationally recognized demarcation line separating Israel and the territories captured in the six-day war of 1967. More than three quarters of the wall's planned route fall outside the Green Line and are illegal according to a landmark advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, while also a flagrant breach of the Geneva Convention and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We urge our governments to encourage Israel to follow international law. In particular, for Israel to respect the livelihoods of these families and for the people of Beit Jala to be protected from further expropriation of their land and homes by Israel. This is a matter of urgency as on 29 January the Israeli Supreme Court starts its hearing into the building of a security wall in the Cremisan Valley and the families' appeal to protect their land.

Our deep concern, as we have repeatedly stated, is that this planned security wall is more about consolidating the settlement areas and permanently choking off Bethlehem from Jerusalem. This particular plan is a microcosm of the tragic situation in the Holy Land which incites resentment and mistrust, making the possibility of a much-needed solution less likely.

Our prayers are with the people of Beit Jala as they seek justice. We offer them also for all who seek a just peace in the Holy Land.

Bishops of the Holy Land Coordination, 2014

Archbishop Stephen Brislin, South Africa
Bishop Peter Burcher, Scandinavia, Finland and Iceland
Bishop William Crean, Ireland
Bishop Michel Dubost, France
Archbishop Paul-Andre Durocher, Canada
Archbishop Patrick Kelly, England and Wales
Bishop William Kenney, England and Wales

Bishop Declan Lang, England and Wales
Bishop Denis Nulty, Ireland
Bishop Richard Pates, United States of America
Bishop Thomas Renz, Germany
Bishop Janusz Stepnowski, Poland
Archbishop Joan Enric Vives, Spain

United Nations A/ES-10/615–S/2014/82

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
7 February 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 6 February 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you of the continuing deterioration of the situation in the Occupied State of Palestine owing to the illegal, provocative policies that continue to be pursued by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people and their land.

Despite the fact that fragile peace talks are under way, Israel continues to carry out grave violations of international law, ranging from military raids into Palestinian villages and towns, daily arrests and detentions and the injury of Palestinian civilians. At the same time, the occupying Power persists with its massive colonial settlement campaign throughout the Palestinian land, including in and around East Jerusalem. Israel's blatant intransigence is being yet again reaffirmed to Palestine and the international community as a whole, as such actions clearly indicate an Israeli rejection of relinquishing its status of occupying Power, of truly ending the occupation of the Palestinian and Arab lands it occupied in June 1967 and of achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace agreement.

With blatant disrespect for the law and disregard for the clear and repeated international demands for the cessation of all settlement activities, Israel persists with its colonization campaign and its efforts to acquire more Palestinian land by force. In this connection, the Government of the State of Palestine unequivocally condemns Israel's latest approval of the construction of more than 550 settlement units in Occupied East Jerusalem. Yesterday, Wednesday, 5 February 2014, the occupying Power pushed forward with plans to build 386 units in the so-called settlements of "Har Homa", 136 units in "Neve Yaakov" and 36 units in "PisgatZeev". In addition, it has been revealed that the Israeli Ministry of Housing and Construction recently issued tenders for the construction of 208 units in the so-called "Tel Tamar" settlement in the Bethlehem area. Rather than acting to end its four-decade military occupation, Israel is doing the opposite. In grave breach of

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the Fourth Geneva Convention and numerous United Nations resolutions, Israel continues to blatantly entrench its control over the land of the Palestinian people with the deliberate intent of altering the demography and the physical situation on the ground in order to prejudge a final solution. Such illegal and bad-faith actions also undermine the international efforts under way to advance peace negotiations towards achievement of a final solution in 2014.

As well as building settlements, the occupying Power has continued to demolish Palestinian homes, rendering dozens more Palestinian families homeless and forced to suffer the socioeconomic stress and trauma of forced displacement. This includes the most recent demolition of three homes in BeitHanina and Sur Bahir in the Occupied West Bank, which resulted in the displacement of another 25 Palestinians. Also, on 30 January, the occupying forces demolished nearly all structures in a herding community of Ein Al-Hilweh and Um Al Jamal in the Tubas area, forcibly displacing 66 Palestinians, including 36 children. In addition, five Palestinian families in the Silwan neighbourhood of Occupied East Jerusalem were issued demolition orders on 5 February, some of which were set to be implemented within 48 hours. In this regard, we recall that the forced displacement or transfer of civilians by the occupying Power, the destruction of civilian properties and all such acts of collective punishment constitute breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention and must be ceased.

Further provoking and inciting, Israel has continued to carry out violent military raids throughout the Occupied State of Palestine, arresting and detaining dozens more Palestinians, including in the Ramallah, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Al-Khalil and Qalqilya areas. These raids, typically carried out in the dark or pre-dawn hours, continue to terrorize the civilian population and cause injury to civilians and damage to property as excessive force continues to be used by the occupying forces. In an overnight raid that began at 2 a.m. (Palestine time) on Tuesday, 4 February, individuals in more than 40 Israeli military vehicles stormed the Al-Fara refugee camp in the northern West Bank, ransacking homes, arbitrarily arresting and detaining Palestinian men and boys, causing injury to many as well as spreading fear and panic among the civilians.

The Israeli occupying forces also continue to routinely commit acts of aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, which remains illegally and immorally blockaded by Israel. The most recent military attacks include the shooting and injury of five people on 31 January in BeitLahiya in northern Gaza, which was preceded by Israeli airstrikes that injured seven other Palestinians and airstrikes against Rafah in southern Gaza that injured four Palestinians and caused damage to civilian property in the area.

At the same time, extremist Israeli settlers continue to wreak havoc and terror on the Palestinian people and their lands. On Sunday, 2 February, Israeli settlers from the so-called settlement of "Shilo" violently vandalized private Palestinian agricultural lands in the villages of Sinjil, Turmus Ayya near the Ramallah area in the West Bank and uprooted more than 1,600 olive trees and saplings that were planted three years ago as part of a project funded by the International Committee of the Red Cross. It should be noted that this latest attack was the second of its kind in a week and that such acts of violence, provocation and destruction are being perpetrated by Israeli settlers on a daily basis.

Further aggravating the situation are the provocative statements constantly being made by Israeli officials, including the latest comment made by the Israeli Minister of Housing and Construction, Uri Ariel, who recently declared: "Let me tell you again: there will only be one State from the Mediterranean sea to the Jordan river, Israel." We condemn and reject all such provocations and illegal Israeli actions, which contradict Israel's so-called stated commitment to the two-State solution, revealing instead the true nature and malicious intent of the current Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and which further poison the atmosphere, undermining trust and the peace efforts under way with the support of the entire international community.

Moreover, all of the above-mentioned illegal and provocative actions by Israel and its settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, are intensifying hardship among the Palestinian people and worsening conditions on the ground. The international community must firmly reject Israel's empty, offensive pretexts and be resolute in demanding a halt to all illegal practices and demanding Israel's respect for international law and its international commitments. To continue exempting Israel from its legal obligations will only ensure the further deterioration of the situation, taking us farther and farther away from the attainment of a just and lasting solution. The demands for Israeli compliance must be clear and must include demands for an immediate halt to the settlement campaign, which is gravely diminishing the viability of the two-State solution and sabotaging the current peace talks.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 483 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 23 January 2014 (A/ES-10/613-S/2014/47) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/616–S/2014/118

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
21 February 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 20 February 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you of the continuing turmoil and deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, due to the illegal, provocative policies being carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people. Israel continues to carry out grave violations of international law, ranging from the killing and injury of Palestinian civilians by means of excessive force against unarmed, defenceless civilians; military raids and mass arrests and detentions, including of children; demolitions of Palestinian homes and properties; and incessant provocations and incitement by settlers and Israeli Government officials against the Palestinian people. These actions have continued and escalated in the recent period, threatening to further destabilize the already fragile situation on the ground and to thwart the peace negotiations currently under way.

Since our last letter, dated 6 February 2014 (A/ES-10/615-S/2014/82), the following illegal practices have been committed by Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian civilian population, a population devoid of protection and whose human rights are undeniably being systematically, grossly and deliberately violated by the occupying Power, with many of those violations amounting to war crimes. These crimes also include those committed by Israeli settlers, whose illegal actions are being perpetrated in full view of the occupying forces, who continue to fail to hold settlers accountable for their crimes. It should be noted that this is not an exhaustive list of the crimes committed since our letter of 6 February, but only a sample of the extensive Israeli violations that continue to be perpetrated on a daily basis.

- In a clear act of incitement and provocation, right-wing Israeli Knesset member and Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, Moshe Feiglin, entered Al-Aqsa compound on Wednesday, 19 February, escorted by Israeli police. Besides his

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hostile presence, Feiglin was heard saying that "*Al-Aqsa Mosque belongs to the Jews*". This act of incitement was preceded by the entry of right-wing Israeli Minister of Housing and Construction Uri Ariel to Al-Aqsa Mosque compound on Tuesday, 11 February, also with heavily armed Israeli forces. Such incitement and deliberate acts intended to provoke Palestinian, Arab and Muslim sensitivities must be viewed with utmost seriousness for these acts are heightening tensions and threaten to completely destabilize the fragile situation on the ground, especially in Occupied East Jerusalem.

- More than 500 Palestinians protesting Israel's unlawful and prolonged blockade were shot at by the Israeli occupying forces on Friday, 14 February, when they gathered near the fence along the northern Gaza Strip. Seventeen civilians were injured as a result of the indiscriminate shooting by the occupying forces at a civilian protest against Israel's constant aggressions and siege, further stoking tensions. In this regard, attention must also be drawn to the critical humanitarian situation due to the continuing Israeli blockade, which is preventing the revival of the economy and deepening poverty and unemployment, particularly among the refugee population, and which continues to obstruct the normal flow of persons and goods into and out of Gaza. This collective punishment against the Palestinian people must end, and Israel must be compelled to abide by its obligations under international law, particularly international humanitarian and human rights law.

- In yet another display of utter disregard for human life, on Thursday, 13 February, Israeli occupying forces killed another Palestinian civilian in Gaza, Ibrahim Suleiman Mansour, 26, while he was collecting gravel to sell.

- Israeli war planes also fired rockets at the northern Gaza Strip and Al-Nuseirat refugee camp, causing serious damage and panic and fear to spread among the civilian population on Tuesday, 11 February. Moreover, over the past week, Israeli occupying forces have continued to launch multiple air strikes against the Gaza Strip, including an air strike targeting a group of fishermen on the shores of Rafah on 19 February. Such attacks continue to cause injury to scores of Palestinians and cause extensive material damage to homes and properties.

- Various reports have revealed plans for more settlement construction throughout Occupied Palestine, particularly in and around Occupied East Jerusalem. In this regard, it was revealed this week that Israel intends to move ahead with a new settlement project in the Silwan area of Occupied East Jerusalem, including the construction of a so-called tourist centre on privately owned Palestinian land belonging to four families, who are facing the imminent confiscation of their land and forced displacement. Moreover, if this illegal project is undertaken, it will sever the links between Al-Haram Al-Sharif and its natural Palestinian environs. In addition, just this week, reports revealed plans by the Israeli Minister of Housing and Reconstruction for the construction of another illegal settlement consisting of thousands of settlement units in the Ein Karem area of the city. We condemn all such provocative and illegal colonization measures, which are physically destroying the two-State solution, and we reiterate the demand that Israel completely cease all settlement activities and comply with the relevant provisions of international law and United Nations resolutions.

- Extremist Israeli settlers destroyed 150 olive trees in the village of Al-Khader, near Bethlehem, on Tuesday, 11 February. On 19 February a settler in Al-Khalil ran over a seven-year-old Palestinian child, Ahmad Burqan, who was taken to the hospital with injuries. Also, at least 30 cars were vandalized in Occupied East Jerusalem in what is believed to have been yet another "price tag" attack by extremist Israelis against Palestinian civilians and their properties, which continue to be perpetrated with complete impunity.

- Israeli occupying forces shot live and rubber-coated bullets and tear gas canisters at peaceful Palestinian protestors in the West Bank towns of Kafr Qaddum, Beit Ummar, Al-Jalazun and Silwad on Friday, 7 February. Dozens of Palestinians were injured, many critically. Also, on 11 February, occupying forces attacked and fired gas bombs at dozens of schoolchildren in Silwan, leading to dozens of injuries and tear gas inhalation.

- On 17 February, occupying forces demolished five makeshift homes belonging to Palestinian Bedouin families, as well as a vegetable shop and a carwash, in Al-Eazzariya, near Occupied East Jerusalem, forcibly displacing again 55 Palestinians, including children, and destroying livelihoods. In this regard, we draw attention to a recent report issued by humanitarian aid agencies indicating that Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes has escalated in the recent period, with the 663 demolitions carried out in 2013 constituting the greatest number of demolitions in five years. The destruction of civilian property by the occupying Power, as well as the forced displacement of civilians, are illegal under international humanitarian law, and we call for an end to all such destructive measures by Israel against the Palestinian people.

The above-mentioned violations compel the Palestinian leadership to call on the international community, including the Security Council, to uphold the rule of law and human rights and demand that Israel, the occupying Power, cease its military aggression against the Palestinian people, respect their human rights, including the right to peaceful protest, and comply with all of its legal obligations under international law. The continued failure to hold Israel accountable for its crimes and violations risks the total destabilization of the situation on the ground, with all of its consequences, including sabotaging the current peace talks, which enjoy global support and for which serious efforts are being exerted and to which the Palestinian leadership remains firmly committed, as demonstrated by the constant responsibility with which it has engaged with international and regional efforts in this regard, as well as in the context of the direct negotiations with Israel.

A strong, unequivocal message must be sent forthwith by the international community that it rejects Israel's illegal policies, intransigence and constant attempts to undermine and obstruct the prospects for realizing a just, lasting and comprehensive peace based on the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles, the Arab Peace Initiative and Quartet road map. At this critical juncture, no effort must be spared to salvage and advance the small opportunity for peace that remains before us.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 484 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 6 February 2014 (A/ES-10/615-S/2014/82), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the

occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/617–S/2014/128

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
26 February 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 25 February 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by the Government of the State of Palestine to draw your urgent attention to the escalating acts of Israeli aggression, provocation and incitement in Occupied East Jerusalem and particularly at Al-Haram Al-Sharif, which houses the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque. Tensions are dramatically rising as Israel, the occupying Power, persists with hostile and illegal actions at this holy site. Such actions undermine the extremely fragile situation on the ground, threatening to further inflame religious sensitivities, ignite another cycle of violence and sabotage the peace negotiations currently under way.

In this regard, Israeli extremists, including right-wing government officials, continue to incite and to attempt to breach the sanctity of Al-Haram Al-Sharif. Today, Israeli occupying forces once again violently stormed the compound, attacking and injuring Palestinian worshipers with rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas canisters and arresting several worshipers. This aggression was undertaken in the midst of threats by Jewish extremists to breach the compound and raise Israeli flags there and in the context of a provocative debate launched in the Israeli Knesset aimed at passing legislation to impose Israeli sovereignty over Al-Haram Al-Sharif. It must be noted that this condemnable, illegal action has been instigated by the Deputy Speaker of the Israeli Knesset, Moshe Feiglin, a member of the party of the Prime Minister, who recently entered Al-Haram Al-Sharif under Israeli military escort and made provocative declarations regarding Al-Aqsa Mosque, a serious matter to which we drew attention in our letter of 20 February 2014 (A/ES-10/616-S/2014/118).

Such reckless actions are clearly aimed at illegally and forcibly asserting Israeli control over Al-Haram Al-Sharif in the heart of Occupied East Jerusalem, which is an integral part of the Palestinian Territory occupied by Israel since 1967

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and constitutes the capital of the State of Palestine, the Israeli annexation of which remains unrecognized and condemned worldwide. We also stress that this holy site, the first *qibla* and the third holiest site in Islam, remains under the supervision of the Islamic Waqf and recall the special role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan with regard to the Muslim and Christian holy sites in the city.

Moreover, we recall the numerous relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 252 (1968), 267 (1969), 271 (1969), 298 (1971), 476 (1980), 478 (1980), 672 (1990) and 1073 (1996), that remain wholly valid and must be fully respected by the occupying Power. Specifically, we recall the Council's repeated pronouncements regarding the illegality of Israeli measures aimed at altering the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and status of the city of Jerusalem and the calls to rescind all such measures, to desist from any further such measures, including settlement activities, and to comply with the legal obligations in this regard, including in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

We call on the Security Council to give urgent attention to this critical matter and to act to uphold its Charter duty for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is obvious that such Israeli acts of incitement, provocation and aggression are intended to deliberately provoke Palestinian, Arab and Muslim sensitivities and could have extremely dangerous and widespread consequences. These condemnable actions are heightening tensions and threaten to completely destabilize the situation on the ground. Moreover, such actions threaten to undermine the current peace negotiations, which are being mediated by the United States of America with the support of the Quartet and the entire international community and are aimed at salvaging the two-State solution and achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The international community, which has for so long endorsed the two-State solution, based on the pre-1967 borders and the well-known terms of reference enshrined in the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, cannot stand idly by while Israel, the occupying Power, flouts international law and destroys the small opportunity that remains for realizing that solution. At this critical juncture, all must act responsibly and with conscience to address this matter of utmost concern and seriousness to Palestine, the Arab world and the Muslim *ummah* and to salvage the prospects for peace.

As noted today by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, in his briefing to the Security Council, "*on the Middle East peace process we are nearing a defining moment*". The international community, primarily the Security Council and the Quartet members, in accordance with the responsibility taken upon themselves to advance the realization of a just and lasting solution, must act forthwith to demand that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all of its violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, cease all provocations and incitement against the Palestinian people and their holy sites, including in Occupied East Jerusalem, and truly commit to the path of peace.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 485 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from

29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 20 February 2014 (A/ES-10/616-S/2014/118) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.